



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Johnny Key, Commissioner

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Arkansas Department of Education Announces Second Year of Arkansas Declaration of Learning Initiative

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Education is partnering with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies and the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Reception Rooms to launch the second year of the Arkansas Declaration of Learning initiative. Arkansas was the first state to participate in the national program.

During the first year, the partners worked with 28 Arkansas teachers and school librarians who teach art, English language arts and social studies for grades seven through 12. Participants developed, taught and revised innovative lessons involving historic art, as well as pieces from national and state partners, in an effort to illustrate the importance of civic engagement. So far, more than 1,700 Arkansas students have participated in Arkansas Declaration of Learning lessons. In November, 2016, these teachers and school librarians will come back together to share their work.

This program is part of a national inter-agency educational initiative that began when representatives from 13 national partnering organizations signed the Declaration of Learning in 2012. This document pledged that the U.S. Department of State, the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, and 11 other national organizations would work with state and local partners to create learning tools for educators and students in middle and secondary education using historic art and objects from their respective collections and best practices in education.

Again this year, participants will have the opportunity to work with partner representatives to develop innovative lessons using historic art and artifacts. Educators interested in participating in the second year should complete the application, which is due by midnight March 29, 2016. Stipends will be provided to selected participants. To apply, please visit <http://bit.ly/1M2Cubo>.

For more information about the project, please contact Cassandra Barnett at (501) 682-6576. Media calls should be directed to Kimberly Friedman, ADE director of communications, at (501) 683-4788. For more information about the application process, please contact Zev Slurzberg at zev.slurzberg@crystalbridges.org. Information also is available at the following hashtag:

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